

new member
profile



Janice Foy, Ph.D.,
musician

• **Why did you join ACSO and why do you think what ACSO does is important?**

I joined ACSO after having experienced the highly stimulating Los Angeles Conference in 2005. The presentations were jam-packed with information, the speakers were enthusiastic and well-informed, and the questions from the attendees made the topic come alive with new ideas and perspectives. I liked meeting people from inside the guts of the orchestra organizations instead of being surrounded by musicians who usually have nothing but notes, bowings, and the next job on their mind. There seemed to be a real energy in this particular group of people. It was even fun to network my new concerto (Rhapsody for Cello by Larry Mumford), in sometimes the oddest places – escalators and bathrooms. ACSO is simply a wonderful body of people helping people for one common goal – the survival of our precious musical art through the tradition of the revered symphony orchestra.

• **How long have you been in your current position? Where were you before this?**

I was an musician delegate in 2005 from the Glendale Symphony. I am a professional freelance cellist/pianist (Founder of Bravo! L.A.), and an ethnomusicologist (Ph.D., UCLA, in Croatian music), in Los Angeles. In addition to performing Western music, I have performed music from Eastern Europe, the

Middle East, Indonesia, India, and Latin cultures. Currently I assist the UCLA Center for Korean Studies and Maestro Jae Lee's Korean-based L.A. Pilgrim Orchestra with their folk music and Christian hymns. Before my life as a cellist, I was a piano prodigy in the State of Washington and I had already won a prize for my first composition for piano and cello by age 9.

• **What is the most meaningful part of your job?**

The most meaningful part of my job is really two-fold: I love sharing my wisdom and expertise with talented young people, particularly those from less advantaged circumstances. A few examples of my missionary work: performing solo cello in hospitals and psychiatric wards to entertain patients; presenting school assembly programs with my ensembles for inner-city children and my visit in 2000 to war-torn areas of Croatia, the birthplace of my maternal grandparents. For the sick, the needy, the down-and-out, and the weak, I choose music that is very uplifting and spiritually invigorating. When I visited Croatia in 2000 I went to the most remote village areas to bring Bach, American music, and their folk music to soothe damaged spirits. I remember one small village chapel in Murtur where I sat down to play a bit of Bach for them during Holy Communion. You could hear a pin drop. Then as the last strains of Bach were heard, a thunderous applause broke out which totally took me by surprise. That moment, I knew, would last a lifetime in their hearts and in mine. That is what music is all about. Music ranks at the top of the spiritual ladder and it is the best way to create bridges of goodwill around the world.

• **What is your hope for the future of symphonic music?**

My hope for the future of symphonic music is that it will become more of a part of the American fabric of life and not just a one or two hour experience, one or two times a month. I feel that here in the USA need to go back to basics in music, (i.e., whistling, humming, singing), in our daily lives before the majority of our society will be ready to graduate to the level of appreciating (or understanding) the music, let alone have the capability to sustain the life of our great symphonic music. May the day come soon when I will believe American society has finally moved itself up a notch in cultural sophistication.

• **What piece of advice would you like to share with our colleagues?**

In a nutshell, I would advise musicians to mind their own career and be happy for others when they get their chance to shine in the sun! This happiness for others could come back to you when you have your moment too! Life is way too short – play and pray – hard. In the words of the movie actor Samuel L. Jackson, one of my favorite students who called me a gem of a coach and to whom I would definitely return the compliment, “You do the jobs you’re supposed to do and if you’re in the right place at the right time, the right thing will happen. You get found when it’s time for you to be found.” ♦

welcome new
ACSO
member!

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